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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/866,245	05/25/2001	Nanami Miki	450100-03244	4576
20999	7590	02/17/2006		EXAMINER
FROMMERM LAWRENCE & HAUG				LAYE, JADE O
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NEW YORK, NY 10151			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2617	

DATE MAILED: 02/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/866,245	MIKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jade O. Laye	2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

I. The amendment filed 12/12/05 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows:

- a. Claims 1 and 11 recite a “plurality of dictionaries.”
- b. Claim 23 recites a “plurality of dictionary databases.”

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Response to Arguments

II. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**.

Applicant argues *Schein et al* do not read upon amended Claim 1. As discussed in the Examiner's previous Final Action, dated May 2nd 2005, and as will be reiterated here, Applicant provides no support for such an argument. Applicant simply expresses his opinion as to the scope of *Schein's* disclosure, states *Schein* does not anticipate Claim 1, and supports this argument with a recitation of Claim 1's limitations. Applicant fails to advocate exactly how or why *Schein* does not anticipate the amended claim limitations. An argument such as this fails to communicate Applicant's position and does nothing to further prosecution.

Also, as discussed in the Examiner's previous Final Action, dated May 2nd, 2005, Applicant's amendments (even if entered) do not alter the scope of the claims sufficiently enough to necessitate further explanation of the non-final action. Accordingly, the position of the previous Non-Final action, dated 9/9/05, is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

III. Claims 1, 2, 6, 11-13, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Schein et al.* (US #6,133,909).

As to claim 1, *Schein* discloses a method of searching an EPG database (Col. 1, Ln. 49-56), wherein, via an interface, a user can enter certain attributes (i.e., keywords) (Col. 2, Ln. 18-23), which retrieve information relevant to the entered keyword from the EPG database. (Col. 12, Ln. 66-67 thru Col. 13, Ln. 1-20 & 33-48). Once the relevant information is retrieved, the user selects the desired EPG data. (Col. 13, Ln. 33-48). It's inherent that a "dictionary database" must be contained within the system of *Schein*. Any system, which allows the user to enter keywords used to retrieve relevant information from the system, must contain a database containing said relevant information. Moreover, the database is accessed based upon the input retrieval keyword and the subsequent subcategory information (i.e., extracted relevant-keyword information) because each is used to retrieve the suggested and/or requested program from the

database. Accordingly, each and every limitation of applicant's claim 1 has been anticipated by *Schein*.

Claim 11 is an apparatus claim corresponding to the method claim 1, and is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed.

As to claim 2, *Schein* discloses a method in which the EPG system database stores information relevant to television programs, such as movie titles and directors. (Col. 13, Ln. 33-36). The user can access this information by entering relevant characters or words, which correspond to the desired program to be located. (Col. 13, Ln. 36-48). Therefore, it is inherent that said database contain keywords and words relevant to those keywords, in order to match corresponding terms in response to a user request. Accordingly, each and every limitation of applicant's claim 2 has been anticipated by *Schein*.

As to claim 6, *Schein* discloses a method wherein the retrieval keywords and the relevant-keyword information extracted from the database are interrelated to each other. (Col. 13, Ln. 1-20 & 33-48). Accordingly, each and every limitation of claim 6 is anticipated by *Schein*.

As to claim 12, *Schein*'s system contains a database, which could be located in the set-top box, television, or the like (i.e., client side). (Col. 9, Ln. 21-36). Accordingly, each and every limitation of claim 12 has been anticipated by *Schein*.

As to claim 13, *Schein* teaches a system containing a database, which could be accessed via the internet (i.e., data server side). (Col. 8, Ln. 62-67 thru Col. 9, Ln. 1-9). Accordingly, each and every limitation of claim 13 has been anticipated by *Schein*.

As to claim 19, *Schein*'s EPG includes data relevant to movie information. (Fig. 10). Accordingly, each and every limitation of claim 19 is anticipated by *Schein*.

As to claim 20, *Schein*'s EPG includes data relevant to drama information. (Col. 12, Ln. 17-20). Accordingly, each and every limitation of claim 20 is anticipated by *Schein*.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

IV. Claims 3, 8-10, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schein* in view of *Beach et al.* (US Pub. #2003/0014753).

Applicant's claim 3 recites the EPG method of claim 1, wherein the retrieval keyword is the name of a person and the relevant information extracted from the database is one of or a combination of a nickname of said person, the full name of said person, the given name of said person, the name of a group relevant to said person, or another well-known name of said person. As discussed above under paragraph 1, *Schein* contains all limitations of claim 1, but fails to disclose a method, which performs the limitations of claim 3. However, within the same field of endeavor *Beach* discloses an EPG wherein a name could be used as a keyword (Fig. 5). Also, the system can be modified to search any program attribute which could be indexed. (Page 2, Par. [0019]). All of said "relevant-keyword information" listed in applicant's claim 3, could potentially be indexed within *Beach*'s system. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in this art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the EPG system of

Schein with the expanded indexing capability of *Beach* in order to provide a more extensive and flexible database from which the user could retrieve desired programming.

Applicant's claim 8 recites the EPG of claim 1, wherein the retrieval keyword belongs to a particular genre (category), while the relevant keyword information belongs to a different genre. As discussed above, *Schein* contains all limitations of claim 1, but fails to disclose the limitations of claim 8. However, within the same field of endeavor, *Beach* discloses a system in which a user can search an actor's name (genre of actor's names) and the system will retrieve all relevant information, which would include movies the actor appeared in (genre of movies). This, in essence, is a method of using a keyword from a certain genre, to retrieve relevant keyword information from a different genre. (Fig. 5 & 6; Page 2 Par. [0022]). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in this art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the EPG of *Schein* with the genre teaching of *Beach* in order to provide the user with a more flexible searching tool.

Applicant's claim 9 recites the EPG of claim 8, where when the particular genre is relevant to cooking, while the different genre is relevant to cooks. As discussed above, the combined teachings of *Schein* and *Beach* contain all limitations of claim 8. Specifying the genre as relevant to cooking, while the retrieval keyword is relevant to cooks is an obvious variant of claim 8 (because cooks and cooking could be categorized as different genres under the same logic of claim 8's rejection). Thus, *Schein* and *Beach* contain all limitations of claim 9. (Moreover, cooks and cooking are interrelated and therefore could be analyzed and rejected as based upon the teaching of *Schein* used to reject claim 6. Except here, of course, *Schein* would have to be used in a 103 combination with *Beach*).

Applicant's claim 10 recites the EPG of claim 8, wherein the particular genre is relevant to place names, the different genre is relevant to one of or a combination of neighboring city names, country names, and regional names. As discussed above, the combined teachings of *Schein* and *Beach* contain all limitations of claim 8, but fail to specifically state the limitations recited in claim 10. However, claim 10 is an obvious variant of claim 8 because both claims are using a keyword from one genre to retrieve relevant keyword information from another genre. (In the alternative, the recited limitations are interrelated and thus, could be analyzed and rejected as in claim 6) Accordingly, the combined teachings of *Schein* and *Beach* contain all limitations of claim 10.

Applicant's claim 14 recites the EPG system of claim 11, wherein said client downloads and stores the program information. As discussed above, *Schein* contains all limitations of claim 11, but fails to teach whether the client is capable of downloading and storing program information. However, within the same field of endeavor, *Beach* further discloses the client unit is capable of downloading and storing program information. (Page 1, Par. [0018]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in this art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the EPG of *Schein* with the client side downloading/storing capability of *Beach* in order to provide the client with an efficient method of storing EPG programming.

V. Claims 4 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schein* in view of *Kanungo et al.* (US #5,966,637).

Applicant's claim 4 recites the EPG method of claim 1, wherein the retrieval keywords and the relevant keyword information is written in hiragana and/or katakana characters used in

Japanese writing. As discussed above, *Schein* contains all limitations of claim 1, but fails to disclose a system capable of displaying Japanese language characters. However, within the same field of endeavor, *Kanungo* discloses a system capable of displaying multilingual text on set top boxes (Col. 3, Ln. 54-62), and specifically discusses hiragana and katakana characters. (Col. 1, Ln. 49-58). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in this art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the EPG system of *Schein* with the multilingual set-top box of *Kanungo* in order to provide the user with a system capable of searching and retrieving information via the Japanese language.

Claim 17 is an apparatus claim corresponding to the method claim 4, and is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed.

VI. Claims 5 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schein* in view of *Bohm et al.* (US #5,404,507).

Applicant's claim 5 recites the method of claim 1, wherein when a misspelled retrieval keyword corresponds to a misused character keyword stored in the database, only the relevant-keyword information is used to perform the retrieval. As discussed above under paragraph 1, *Schein* contains all limitations of claim 1, but fails to disclose the limitations of claim 5. However, within the same field of endeavor, *Bohm* (also cited in applicant's IDS) discloses a retrieval system capable of analyzing a misspelled search term. If the user misspells a search term, the system retrieves probable alternative words stored on the database and presents them to the user. The user then selects one of the alternative words in order to retrieve the original desired data. (Col. 2, Ln. 11-29). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill in this art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the EPG of *Schein* with the database search capability of *Bohm* in order to provide a EPG searching method capable of retrieving desired programming based upon an incorrectly entered search term.

Claim 16 is an apparatus claim corresponding to the method claim 5, and is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed herein.

VII. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schein* in view of *Beach* and further in view of *Livowsky*. (US #6,598,039).

Applicant's claim 7 recites the EPG of claim 1, wherein when part of a retrieval keyword is entered, the entire keyword and the relevant-keyword information are retrieved from a database storing previously input keywords in a predetermined order. As discussed above, *Schein* contains all limitations of applicant's claim 1, but fails to specifically disclose the limitations of claim 7. However, within the same field of endeavor, *Beach* discloses an EPG system whereby the system can retrieve keywords and relevant keywords based only upon entering a single character (i.e. part of a keyword). (Fig. 4, and Page 2 Par. [0021]), but fails to disclose whether the system is capable of storing previously entered keywords in a predetermined order. However, within the same field of endeavor, *Livowsky* discloses a method of searching a database, whereby the database "learns" from a user's past entries (i.e., keywords) and updates the database accordingly. (Col. 2, Ln. 26-33 ; Col. 8, Ln. 8-15). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in this art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the modified teachings of *Schein* and *Beach* with the "learning" capability of

Livowsky's database in order to provide the user with a more expansive and flexible searching tool, which would be capable of updating the database.

VIII. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schein* in view of *Livowsky*. (US #6,598,039).

Applicant's claim 15 recites the EPG system of claim 11, wherein the client access a necessary part of the data server via a routing server, which stores route information for the data server. As discussed above, *Schein* contains all limitations of applicant's claim 11, but fails to disclose the additional limitations of claim 15. However, within the same field of endeavor, *Livowsky* discloses a searching database wherein the user accesses the desired portion of the system database (i.e., data server) via a system server, which distributes (i.e., routes) the search requests among core engines. (Col. 2, Ln. 44-57 ; Col. 4, Ln. 1-12 & 30-36). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the EPG of *Schein* with the multiple server system of *Livowsky* in order to provide a more efficient searching system.

IX. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schein* in view of *Lee et al.* (US #6,463428).

Applicant's claim 18 recites the EPG system of claim 11, wherein said dictionary database stores previously input keywords so that the input keywords are included in the relevant-keyword information, and the stored keywords are arranged in order of frequency of use. As discussed above, *Schein* contains all limitations of claim 11, but fails to teach the

limitations of claim 18. However, within the same field of endeavor, *Lee et al* discloses a system capable of storing keywords and ranking them based upon their frequency of use. (Col. 5, Ln. 8-16 ; Col. 15, Ln. 10-64 ; Fig. 18). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in this art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the EPG of *Schein* with the keyword storage capability of *Lee et al* in order to provide the user with a more efficient searching system.

X. Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schein*.

Applicant's claim 21 recites the EPG system of claim 11, wherein the program information includes data relevant to place names. As discussed above, *Schein* contains all limitations of claim 1. Specifically, *Schein* discloses a method of searching an EPG database (Col. 1, Ln. 49-56), wherein, via an interface, a user can enter certain attributes (i.e., keywords) (Col. 2, Ln. 18-23), which retrieve information relevant to the entered keyword from the EPG database. (Col. 12, Ln. 66-67 thru Col. 13, Ln. 1-20 & 33-48). Once the relevant information is retrieved, the user selects the desired EPG data. (Col. 13, Ln. 33-48). But, *Schein* fails to specifically disclose whether the program information retrieved can be relevant to place names. However, since *Schein*'s system can retrieve any information contained on the database which is relevant to the keyword, it would have been obvious that this information could contain data relevant to place names if the user entered a keyword related to a place name. For example, if a user enters "Cowboys" as a keyword, *Schein*'s system would likely retrieve a Dallas Cowboys football game to be played in Texas. Or, if a user were to input "geographic", *Schein*'s system would likely retrieve any programs listed on the geography channel, some of which would be

relevant to place names. In essence, would have been obvious that *Schein*'s system could retrieve data relevant to place names because it is highly likely various programs listed on the database are related to or contain place names. Thus, *Schein* contains all limitations of applicant's claim 21.

Although claim 22 does not correspond to claim 21, it is analyzed and rejected accordingly because it contains the same elemental structure.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jade O. Laye whose telephone number is (571) 272-7303. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. 7:30am-4, Tues. 7:30-2, W-Fri. 7:30-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner: Jade O. Laye

Initials: JL

February 6, 2006.


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